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ABSTRACT

In addition to a foreword by Clifford Geertz and an introduction by Patricia Bizzell, this book features 12 essays by rhetoric and composition scholars responding to interviews with prominent scholars outside the discipline. The commentaries in the book entertain a range of topics, including language, rhetoric, philosophy, feminism and literary criticism. Each section of the book contains one interview and two essays: (1) Susan Wells and Reed Way Dasenbrock respond to Thomas Kent's interview with Donald Davidson ("Language Philosophy, Writing, and Reading: A Conversation with Donald Davidson"); (2) Patricia Bizzell and John Trimbur respond to Gary Olson's interview with Stanley Fish ("Fish Tales: A Conversation with 'The Contemporary Sophist'"); (3) Joyce Irene Middleton and Tom Fox respond to Olson's interview with bell hooks ("bell hooks and the Politics of Literacy: A Conversation"); (4) Patricia Harkin and Jasper Neel respond to Olson's interview with J. Hillis Miller ("Rhetoric, Cultural Studies, and the Future of Critical Theory: A Conversation with J. Hillis Miller"); (5) Susan C. Jarratt and Elizabeth A. Flynn respond to Olson's interview with Jane Tompkins ("Jane Tompkins and the Politics of Writing, Scholarship, and Pedagogy"); (6) Arabella Lyon and C. Jan Swearingen respond to Olson's interview with Stephen Toulmin ("Literary Theory, Philosophy of Science, and Persuasive Discourse: Thoughts from a Neo-premodernist"). The book concludes with an essay ("Commentary: The Performance Model of Teaching and Scholarship"), in which David Bleich observes that the interviewees show a continuing devotion to the university faculty member as an intellectual and individual "performer" for students and administrators. (TB)

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